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Exhibition Document: Envoy of Peace 和平的使者

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ENVOY OF PEACE (or: PAX FAX)

August 6, 1995

Jian-Jun Zhang

August 6th, 1995 is the 50th Anniversary of the dropping of the nuclear bomb on Hiroshima, Japan.

In the hope that this tragedy never recurs in human history and in the spirit of true and everlasting peace between peoples and nations, I built a space installation work entitled "ENVOY OF PEACE" (or: PAX FAX).

The "ENVOY OF PEACE" existed in two locations.

The first site, on the grounds of the city of Hiroshima, Japan, was defined by a 50 foot hole dug into the earth, covered by a layer of burnt ash on its surface. In its center, I installed a fax machine on a raised platform.

The second site, located in New York City, USA, incorporated another fax machine.

From this USA installation, at 12:00 a.m. on August 6th, New York time, (noon on August 6th, Hiroshima time) I began to send pages to the fax machine installed at Hiroshima.

There were hundreds of pages, each one an original from a native of every country in the world. I asked each representative to draw a dove of peace on a piece of paper. Also on this paper, their country of origin was identified with a reproduction of their nation's flag placed in the lower right hand corner of the page.

All of these faxes were sent continuously for hours from the site in New York to the site in Hiroshima. These envoys, the doves, individually flew down from the fax machine, covering the burnt ash below.

My "ENVOY" flew the world's wishes for peace to Hiroshima on the wings of these doves.